

BIG SKY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND (BSTF)
Project Summary for Calendar Year 2008

The Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund (BSTF) Program was created by the 2005 Montana Legislature. It is designed to aid in the development of good paying jobs for Montana residents and promote long-term stable economic growth in Montana. By statute, 75% of the Big Sky Economic Development Trust Fund's earnings will be used to fund Category I: Economic Development projects and 25% of the earnings will be used to fund Category II: Planning Grant projects.

Category I: Economic Development Projects

Category I funds are awarded to local government entities and require the creation of net new full-time jobs the provide wages that meet or exceed the current average weekly wage of the county, excluding benefits. The jobs referenced below meet this threshold.

Signal Peak Energy, LLC

Jobs Created: 191

Leveraged Funds: \$450,300,000

BSTF Funds: \$975,000

Matching funds sources:

WIRED	\$ 300,000
Boich Companies	\$325,000,000
FirstEnergy	\$125,000,000

A \$975,000 grant was awarded to Musselshell County to assist Signal Peak Energy, LLC with the purchase of employee training-related equipment. The award will support the creation of 130 jobs that must pay at least \$11.90 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 191 jobs for the entire project.

Avmax Montana, Inc.

Jobs Created: 53

Leveraged Funds: \$8,933,864

BSTF Funds: \$265,000

Matching funds sources:

Avmax Montana, Inc	\$3,336,425
Great Falls International Airport Authority	\$4,217,573
Workforce Training Grant (WTG)	\$ 179,866
EDA	\$1,200,000

A \$265,000 grant was awarded to the Great Falls International Airport Authority to purchase ventilation system equipment for a paint hanger to be leased to Avmax Montana, Inc., an aircraft maintenance company. The award will support the creation of 53 jobs that must pay at least \$14.20 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 74 jobs over the next several years.

Safflower Technologies International, LLC

Jobs Created: 5

Leveraged Funds: \$374,475

BSTF Funds: \$25,000

Matching funds sources:

Safflower Technologies International, LLC	\$301,150
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WIRED Grant	\$ 73,325
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A \$25,000 grant was awarded to the City of Fairview for Safflower Technologies International, LLC, to use for the purchase of equipment associated with the expansion into a newly acquired seed crushing and processing facility. The award will support the creation of 5 jobs that must pay at least \$15.00 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of a total of 8 jobs over the next several years.

General Electric Capital Corporation

Jobs Created: 125

Leveraged Funds: \$19,211,750

BSTF Funds: \$625,000

Matching funds sources:

Workforce Training Grant (WTG)	\$ 750,000
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Montana Board of Investments	\$9,500,000
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EDA	\$1,000,000
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GE	\$7,961,750
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A \$625,000 grant was awarded to Big Sky Economic Development Authority, a Yellowstone County Port Authority, to assist General Electric Capital Corporation's Commercial Finance Division with the purchase of employee training-related equipment. The award will support the creation of 125 jobs that must pay at least \$16.18 per hour, excluding benefits and the creation of 200 jobs over the next several years.

Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc.

Jobs Created: 6

Leveraged Funds: \$3,484,000

BSTF Funds: \$45,000

Matching funds sources:

CDBG-ED	\$ 400,000
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Commerce EDA RLF	\$ 75,000
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SBA Disaster Loan	\$ 704,000
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Missoula County RLF	\$ 105,000
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Two Rivers Bank Loan	\$2,200,000
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A \$45,000 grant was awarded to Missoula County to assist Pyramid Mountain Lumber, Inc. with the purchase of small diameter lodgepole pine. The award will support the creation of 6 jobs that must pay at least \$14.75 per hour, excluding benefits and the

creation of 30 jobs over the next several years. ***Applicant later withdrew grant request.***

Category II: Planning Grants

Category II funds are awarded to Certified Regional Development Corporations (CRDCs) or other eligible economic development organizations.

Whitehall Business Park Project **\$25,000**
Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the Master Plan for the 200-acre Sunlight Business Park site.

Hysham Independent Living Project **\$20,000**
Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for an independent living facility in Hysham.

N. Cheyenne Indian Reservation-Broadband Feasibility Study **\$11,025**
Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study completed by Bresnan Communications to determine the best design and overall cost analysis to provide broadband services to the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

Crow Indian Reservation-Broadband Feasibility Study **\$11,025**
Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a feasibility study completed by Bresnan Communications to determine the best design and overall cost analysis to provide broadband services to the Crow Indian Reservation.

Hardin Industrial Park Rail Feasibility Study **\$26,250**
Grant to Beartooth RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a comprehensive rail and rail facilities feasibility study for the Hardin Industrial Park.

Flathead County Underemployment Study **\$13,000**
Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the development of a Labor Availability Study for Flathead County.

Missoula 3-D Google Earth Model **\$24,995**
Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a 3-D web-based community profile of Missoula as part of the Master Plan. Applicant later withdrew grant request.

T-Fuel Corvallis-Financial Assistance Package Development **\$ 5,000**
Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a business plan and hiring and training plan for a new algae-based bio-fuel production facility north of Corvallis.

Eastern Montana Biomass Facility Feasibility Study **\$ 7,750**
Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for establishing a wood shavings and/or a wood pellet mill.

Boilermakers Training Facility Feasibility Study **\$ 8,400**
Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for establishing a Boilermakers Training Facility in Colstrip.

Alameda Hot Springs Geothermal and Bio-Gas PER **\$ 8,925**
Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the development of an engineering study to examine geothermal energy and biomass (bio-gas) waste to energy production for the Alameda Hot Springs.

Great Bear Innovation Park Master Plan PER **\$21,420**
Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Master Plan for the proposed Great Bear Innovation Park in Great Falls.

Conrad Industrial Park PER **\$17,525**
Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for extending water and wastewater facilities to the new proposed Industrial Park in Conrad.

Roosevelt County Tractor Museum Pre-feasibility Study **\$ 4,995**
Grant to Great Northern Development Corporation to assist with the development of a pre-feasibility study of the potential of developing a tractor museum from an extensive privately held John Deere tractor collection in Roosevelt County.

Madison County Fairgrounds PAR **\$ 9,000**
Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for the historic structures in the Madison County Fairgrounds in Twin Bridges.

Powder River County Radio Station PER **\$ 9,000**
Grant to Southeastern Montana Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) for a non-commercial radio station to provide emergency, service announcements, road and weather information for Powder River County.

Stoltze Lumber Co-Generation Feasibility Study **\$90,000**
Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist with the development of a feasibility study for a biomass-fired heat and power co-generation facility at the F.H. Stoltze Land and Lumber Co. site in Columbia Falls.

Mission Valley Renewable Energy, LLC Feasibility Study **\$30,000**

Grant to Lake County Community Development Corporation to assist with the development of a feasibility study for expanding a tire recycling operation in Polson, Montana into a renewable energy gasification plant.

Wood Products Industry Council **\$ 5,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of a formal strategy and action plan by the proposed Wood Products Industry Council to address the short-term crisis in the Montana wood products industry.

Greater Downtown Missoula Master Plan **\$25,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of Missoula's Greater Downtown Master Plan and Implementation Strategy addressing parking, retail, housing and employment strategies.

Target Industry Analysis **\$25,000**

Grant to Montana Business Assistance Connection to assist with the development of a Target Industry Analysis for Lewis & Clark, Broadwater and Meagher Counties.

Signal Peak Road PER **\$25,000**

Grant to Snowy Mountain Development Corporation to assist Musselshell County with the development of a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), Bid Package and Specifications for road improvements required as a direct result of the development at the Bull Mountain Mine by Signal Peak Energy, LLC.

Wildfibre Advanced Product Testing Report **\$25,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist Wildfibre, a Hamilton based company, with the development of an advanced product testing report to demonstrate the efficacy, reliability and impact-resistance of the company's concrete reinforcement product, allowing the company to market their product to a wider customer base.

Kalispell Shooting Range Market & Feasibility Analysis **\$16,000**

Grant to Montana West Economic Development to assist the City of Kalispell with the development of a market and feasibility analysis of the proposed shooting range to support the firearm manufacturing industry cluster in Flathead County and law enforcement agencies throughout Northwest Montana.

Beaverhead County Beef PER **\$13,500**

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist with the development of a site-specific Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), operations plan and economic analysis for a beef processing facility in Beaverhead County.

National Center for Health Care Informatics Business Plan **\$7,500**

Grant to Headwaters RC&D Area, Inc. to assist non-profit organization with the development of a business plan for creating a healthcare modeling and simulation center that intends to work with the proposed Rocky Mountain Supercomputer facility in Butte.

Cut Bank EMS PAR**\$5,000**

Grant to Sweetgrass Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) for a new facility for the new Glacier County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) facility and regional training center in Cut Bank.

Liberty County Senior Center PAR**\$12,500**

Grant to Bear Paw Development Corporation to assist with the development of a Preliminary Architectural Report (PAR) to examine all available options for the Liberty County Senior Citizens Center, currently located in downtown Chester.

Montana Forest Products Industry Initiative**\$25,000**

Grant to Missoula Area Economic Development Corporation to assist with the development of an interim report and a final strategy and action plan to assist the Montana Forest Products Industry.